

Cross Connection Control Notice: LAWN SPRINKLER WINTERIZATION

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency requires every municipal water supplier to develop and implement a comprehensive cross connection control program for the elimination of existing cross connections and prevention or protection from all future cross connections on potable drinking water systems. Regulations are enforced to keep our drinking water safe.

Residential backflow preventers may be found on lawn irrigation systems, wet fire protection systems, hot water heating (boiler) systems, swimming pool fills, water features, etc. Backflow preventers may also be required if there is another water source on the site such as a well, pond, river, etc.

Lawn Sprinkler Systems Should Be Getting Winterized Each Fall

If your backflow preventer is located outdoors, remember to either blow it out or remove and store it someplace warm for the winter. You may cover it with a blanket, towels, or similar temporarily. Insulation and/or heat tape may also be used, but would be insufficient protection for the winter. Allowing it to freeze is a costly mistake.

Once removed, remember where you stored it. You will need to give the backflow preventer to your lawn irrigation contractor or plumber next spring to have it reinstalled. Plumbing Code requires that your backflow preventer be tested upon re-installation every season by a certified tester. Test results are then submitted online by your tester.

The City of Geneva's cross connection control program is designed to safeguard public health. We ask for your cooperation with our program, its enforcement, and any requests for information that come from Aqua Backflow or Utility staff.